

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00544 011502Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 CU-04 DHA-02 L-03  
SCA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /071 W  
-----011511 092353 /42

P 011432Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2172  
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY  
USMISSION BERLIN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

UNCLAS PRAGUE 0544

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, CZ  
SUBJECT: SOME OF JOURNALISTS' DOCUMENTS ARE RETURNED

REF: PRAGUE 0520

1. ON MARCH 1 CONOFF CALLED ON DR. VANEK, ACTING HEAD OF MFA'S CONSULAR DEPARTMENT, TO PICK UP MATERIALS SEIZED FROM U.S. JOURNALISTS (SEE REFTEL). VANEK GAVE CONOFF TWO SEALED PACKETS MARKED WITH NAMES OF HOFMANN AND COLLITT RESPECTIVELY, AND REMARKED THAT GOC WAS RETURNING ALL MATERIAL WHICH WAS "NOT OBJECTIONALBE." CONOFF REPEATED U.S. POSITION ON DETENTION OF JOURNALISTS AND SEIZURE OF MATERIALS.

2. AFTER RETURN TO EMBASSY CONOFF OPENED PACKETS IN ORDER TO INVENTORY CONTENTS AND DISCOVERED VARIOUS PRINTED MATERIALS (INCLUDING NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, COMMERCIAL TELEGRAMS, AND RFE SITUATION REPORTS), BLANK SHEETS OF PAPER (INCLUDING SOME WITH NEW YORK TIMES LETTERHEAD), AND TWO CASSETTES (QUICK CHECK INDICATES ONE IS BLANK AND OTHER FADES IN AND OUT). NEITHER PACKET CONTAINED ANY NOTEBOOKS OR OTHER HANDWRITTEN OR TYPED

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NOTES MADE BY EITHER REPORTER.

3. HOFMANN'S PACKET WILL BE FORWARDED TO EMBASSY VIENNA AND COLLITT'S PACKET TO USMISSION BERLIN FOR JOURNALISTS EXAMINATION.

4. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION INITIATED BY HOFMANN FROM VIENNA AFTERNOON MARCH 1, DCM EXPLAINED WHAT HAD BEEN RETURED TO EMBASSY AND

WHAT WAS STILL MISSING. HOFMANN INDICATED HE WOULD REPORT THIS DEVELOPMENT PROMPTLY TO NY TIMES. HE ALSO NOTED THAT HE PLANNED TO APPLY SOON FOR ANOTHER VISA TO VISIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

5. PAO, USMISSION BERLIN MAY WANT TO INFORM COLLITT OF ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DETENTION, JOURNALISTS, CONSULAR LEGAL ASSISTANCE, IDENTITY DOCUMENTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 PRAGUE 520  
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**Subject:** SOME OF JOURNALISTS' DOCUMENTS ARE RETURNED  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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